

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0976

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 5435

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR

SUBJ: PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE ON NARCOTICS CONTROL ACTIVITIES

REF: STATE 233134

1. AS REQUESTED, I HAVE REVIEWED WITH MY STAFF THE EMBASSY'S ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF DRUG CONTROL. THERE IS NO DRUG ABUSE PROGRAM AMONG THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN BUCHAREST. WE CANNOT PERHAPS TAKE TOO MUCH CREDIT FOR THIS, IN THAT THE AGE GROUPS REPRESENTED (THE AMERICAN SCHOOL GOES ONLY THROUGH THE 8TH GRADE) ARE NOT THOSE IN WHICH THE PROBLEM IS USUALLY MOST ACUTE.

2. WITH REGARD TO THE ROMANIANS, THE CURRENT YEAR HAS SEEN AN INCREASED AWARENESS OF THE PROBLEM ON THE PART OF THOSE GOR OFFICIALS CHARGED WITH RESPONSIBILITIES IN THIS AREA. THE TRADITIONAL CONTENTION HERE HAS BEEN THAT DRUG ABUSE IS NOT A PROBLEM IN ROMANIA. EVIDENCE AVAILABLE TO THE EMBASSY SEEMS TO BEAR THIS OUT. ROMANIAN OFFICIALS, HOWEVER, HAD HAD A COROLLARY TENDENCY TO THINK OF NARCOTICS TRAFFIC AS SOMETHING THAT HAPPENS ELSEWHERE. THAT IS NO LONGER THE PREVALENT ATTITUDE. CONSCIOUSNESS OF THE DRUG PERIL EVEN TO COUNTRIES LYING OUTSIDE THE MAIN SUPPLY ROUTES HAS BEEN BROUGHT HOME TO THE ROMANIANS BY AN EXCHANGE OF VISITS WITH US CUSTOMS OFFICIALS, AND MORE PARTICULARLY BY A SIX-WEEK

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COURSE IN INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL GIVEN IN THE US

LAST AUGUST-SEPTEMBER BY US CUSTOMS AND ATTENDED BY FOUR ROMANIAN INSPECTORS. THAT COURSE WAS FOUND VERY BENEFICIAL. THE DIRECTOR OF ROMANIAN CUSTOMS HAS SAID THAT MODIFICATIONS OF ROMANIAN PROCEDURES IN SEARCH TECHNIQUES AND OTHER FIELDS ARE BEING INTRODUCED AS A RESULT OF METHODOLOG LEARNED IN THE COURSE. FURTHER EVIDENCE OF AN ENHANCED ALERTNESS TO THE PROBLEM HAS BEEN INTEREST EXPRESSED BY THE GOR IN HOLDING A COURSE IN NARCOTICS IN-COUNTRY FOR MID-LEVEL OFFICIALS. EMBASSY DISCUSSIONS ARE TO TAKE PLACE IN DECEMBER WITH A VIEW TO SCHEDULING THE ARRIVAL OF A US TRAINING TEAM SOMETIME IN 1975.

3. THE EMBASSY MAINTAINS GOOD RELATIONS WITH ROMANIAN CUSTOMS, THE PRINCIPAL ORGANIZATION ENGAGED IN NARCOTICS CONTROL. DISCUSSIONS HAVE ALSO BEEN HELD WITH THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR ON THE SUBJECT. WE BELIEVE THE ROMANIANS ARE NOW SUFFICIENTLY CONSCIOUS OF THE IMPORT WORLD-WIDE OF THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM SO THAT WE MAY SOON BEGIN TO RECEIVE THEIR INPUT TO OUR PROGRAMS ON DRUG ABUSE. WE EXPECT TO START AN EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AS SOON AS THE GOR COMPLETES ITS BASIC DATA COLLECTION, A PROJECT WE ARE INFORMED IS NEARLY FINISHED.

4. OUR ACTION PROGRAM, WHILE MODEST, SEEMS TO FIT THE DIMENSIONS OF THE PROBLEM PRESENTED. THE PROGRAM HAS BECOME IN EFFECT A JOINT EFFORT OF THE TWO CUSTOMS SERVICES, AN ARRANGEMENT WITH WHICH THE ROMANIANS SEEM TO FEEL COMFORTABLE. AT THIS STAGE IT IS NOT CLEAR TO US HOW A DEA ROLE WOULD DIFFER FROM OR SUPPLEMENT THE US CUSTOMS' ROLE AS FAR AS ROMANIA IS CONCERNED. SUBJECT TO CLARIFICATION OF THIS POINT, IT SEEMS TO US BETTER TO HAVE A SINGLE AMERICAN ORGANIZATION DEALING WITH THE GOR IN THIS FIELD.

BARNES

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